UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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preserving and distributing fish."

FAO FISHERY MEETING--TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS, NEW ONES, COSTS, ACCEPTANCE
Good quality standard-type fishery products find a ready market in highly
developed areas, members of the FAO International Conference on Fish in Nutrition
were told Tuesday in a session which found representatives from many nations
urging their listeners not to overlook the "traditional methods of processing,

The discussions revolved around two topics—the economic phases of fish consumption and the technological and acceptability factors of fish flour, or fish protein concentrate, as the technologists prefer to call it.

Some of the speakers expressed the fear that so much attention had been focused on new products designed to a great extent for the benefit of developing nations that actual diet deficiencies of more prosperous nations had been overlooked.

Debate was enlivened and smiles elicited by one delegate who said that while malnutrition was a problem of developing nations there was an ardent search for relief from atherosclerosis by well-fed people in the well developed areas.

Discussion of the economics of fish consumption followed a paper by R.A. Taylor of the British Transport Service who stated among many other pertinent things that there was a tendency for man to veer away from fish in the diet as his income rose above subsistence levels and that this should be considered in any discussion on fishery economics.

Donald L. McKernan, Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior, and general chairman of the conference, declared from the floor that there was no indication that the distribution of the world's income would adversely affect the traditional fishery products in the next 100 years. Still other speakers declared that quality as well as economics was the key and that there would always be a ready market for traditional products and for the newer ones if the quality of the material was kept at a uniformly high level.

Another defender of traditional fishery products was Clarence F. Pautzke, Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, who urged the conference not to forget that canning was still the best way to defeat time and climate. He urged that greater efforts be made to eliminate waste in production, processing, and distribution, and get canned products within the economic reach of those in the developing areas.

Discussion of fish protein concentrate was concerned with the technological aspects of manufacture, the need for education in promoting acceptability of the product and the economics involved in producing a high grade product at a low price.

Technological problems were considered serious but not overwhelming. Morocco reported having a good fish flour trade with some of the other African nations for use in human diet, and South Africa reported the successful use of fish flour as a fish protein supplement to a highly acceptable brown bread.

Many speakers declared that the undernourished people needed the benefits offered by fish protein immediately and that provision should be made to supply some acceptable type--dried, smoked or salted--fish to these people as soon as possible and not wait for technology to develop a more acceptable product.

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